



April 2005

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## • Legislative Update

The following designation bills were introduced in March:

- On March 9, H.R. 1192 to establish the **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area** in Illinois.

The following suitability and feasibility study bills were introduced in March:

- On March 3, H.R. 1087 to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the **Northeastern North Carolina Heritage Area** in North Carolina.
- On March 14, H.R. 1289, to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the **Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area** in South Carolina.

Other legislation introduced in March:

- On March 9, H.R. 1205 and S. 574, to amend the **Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor** Act of 1994 to extend the authorization for that corridor.

Correction: **Freedom's Way National Heritage Area** (H.R. 956) is located in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

There are now **six study bills introduced** and **fifteen designation bills on twelve areas introduced** in Congress.

For list of legislation currently introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/LEG/introbills109.pdf>

## **Bills passed:**

- On March 14, bills to study Western Reserve Heritage Area (H.R.412) and designate Gullah/ Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (H.R.694) passed the House.

## **Hearings:**

- On March 15, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on S. 175 (Brownback), to establish the **Bleeding Kansas and Enduring Struggle for Freedom National Heritage Area**; S. 322 (Jeffords), to establish the **Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership** in the States of Vermont and New York; S. 323 (Talent), to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and

feasibility of designating the **French Colonial Heritage Area** in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System; and S. 429 (Lieberman), to establish the **Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area** in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Janet Matthews, Associate Director for Cultural Resources, National Park Service and John Cosgrove, Executive Director, Alliance of National Heritage Areas testified before the subcommittee. To view their testimonies and those of the other witnesses, visit the website of the Subcommittee on National Parks at <http://energy.senate.gov/hearings/witnesslist.cfm?id=1412>.

## ● Update on the NPS Advisory Board Partnerships Committee

-The NPS Advisory Board Partnerships Committee is finalizing findings and recommendations on the *Future of the National Heritage Areas in the National Park System* to present to the NPS Advisory Board at their meeting in Palm Springs, CA in mid-April. The committee will reconvene April 26-28<sup>th</sup> in MotorCities National Heritage Area in Detroit to present the findings and recommendations to Alliance of National Heritage Areas members and NPS folks. A moderated session to discuss next steps will follow the presentation. The partnerships committee is expected to pull together a report sometime in the fall.

## ● This Month in the Heritage Areas

-The **Green Valley Institute** has been named the winner of the American Planning Association's national Outstanding Planning Award for Public Education. The Green Valley Institute, a formal partnership between the **Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor** and the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, helps Heritage Corridor communities and citizens sustain their environment and quality of life while growing their economies.



The Institute seeks to improve the knowledge base from which land use and natural resource decisions are made, and build local capacity to protect and manage natural resources as our region grows. The GVI targets audiences who most influence land use in the Corridor, including private

landowners, municipal boards and commissions, Corridor land trusts and local builders/contractors. For more information on the institute, visit <http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org/gvi/index.html>.

-Last month this bulletin reported that Natchitoches, Louisiana (pop. 16,600), part of **Cane River National Heritage Area**, had received recognition from the National Trust as one of the nation's **2005 Dozen Distinctive Destinations**. "Established in 1714, this vibrant community is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase. Natchitoches boasts a 33-block historic district, picture-book architecture and a variety of shops, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, tours and festivals that visitors are sure to enjoy." Two other Destinations are also within national heritage areas:

Dubuque, Iowa (pop. 57,600) lies within **Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area**. "Perched high on a limestone bluff above the mighty Mississippi, Dubuque is a charming and

vibrant city known for its cache of Victorian mansions, breath-taking vistas and three centuries of river history.”

Salem, Massachusetts (pop. 40,400) is part of **Essex National Heritage Area**. “Most famously known for the witchcraft trials of 1692, Salem is also one of New England’s most colorful, coastal cities. Dubbed “America’s Bewitching Seaport,” Salem boasts a rich maritime heritage, an impressive display of historic architecture and nearly four centuries of history.” The entire press release, from which these excerpts are taken, is available at [http://www.nationaltrust.org/news/docs/20050302\\_ddd.html](http://www.nationaltrust.org/news/docs/20050302_ddd.html). To learn more, visit [http://www.nationaltrust.org/dozen\\_distinctive\\_destinations/index.asp?cat=3](http://www.nationaltrust.org/dozen_distinctive_destinations/index.asp?cat=3).

## ● News from the Alliance of National Heritage Areas

-The next board meeting of the **Alliance of National Heritage Areas** will be hosted by MotorCities National Heritage Area in Detroit, MI April 26-29. For more information, contact John Cosgrove, Executive Director of the ANHA, at [anha.cosgrove@adelphia.net](mailto:anha.cosgrove@adelphia.net) or 202-528-7549.

## ● Grants and Awards Opportunities

-The National Trust for Historic Preservation is now accepting applications for the **Rural Heritage Development Initiative**, a project that will work with two rural pilot regions to implement preservation-based economic development strategies. The new initiative is funded in significant part through a \$745,000 three-year grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Proposals are being solicited from regions that have the capacity to work collaboratively to develop cultural and heritage assets for economic benefit.

The Rural Heritage Development Initiative will bring together various multi-disciplinary services of the National Trust for intensive work with partners in the pilot regions over a three-year period. Through preservation-based strategies including heritage tourism, local entrepreneurial and business development, barn preservation, rural land-use planning, and neighborhood housing revitalization, the project will utilize local assets to achieve economic gains in the pilot regions.

For additional information about the National Trust’s Rural Heritage Development Initiative or to receive the RFP, please call the Center for Preservation Leadership, Statewide and Local Partnerships Office, 202-588-6216. The application is also available at [http://www.nationaltrust.org/about\\_the\\_trust/contracts\\_rfp\\_list.html](http://www.nationaltrust.org/about_the_trust/contracts_rfp_list.html). Proposals will need to demonstrate the ability to provide matching funds.

## ● Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

-**2005 International Heritage Development Conference**: June 5-8, 2005, Nashville, TN, sponsored by the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and hosted by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. The conference website, <http://www.ihdc2005.org>, now



provides descriptions on over a dozen mobile workshops, held during “Workshop Tuesday” in and around Nashville. Three evening events and twenty educational sessions will also provide registrants with an opportunity to experience Southern culture and hospitality while learning about national and international trends in preserving and celebrating distinctive landscapes.

On Monday evening, Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen will speak to participants at Fisk University, and on Tuesday evening participants will enjoy an evening of “Tennessee Roots and Rhythm” at the Country Music Hall of Fame. You can now register on-line by visiting the conference website at <http://www.ihdc2005.org>. The conference is open to the first 500 registrants. Registration closes April 18, 2005.

-Two sessions about current research in national heritage areas were held at the George Wright Society *Biennial Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites* March 14-18, 2005 in Philadelphia. A panel discussion showcased the work of four students



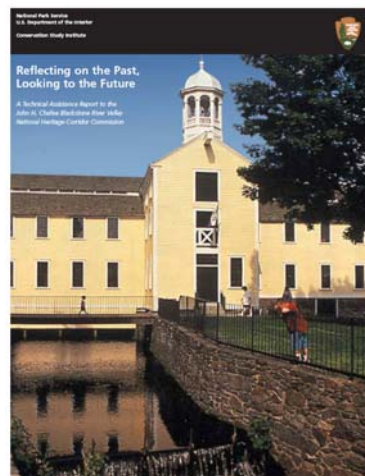
pursuing cutting-edge research in designated and emerging heritage areas. John Cosgrove, Executive Director of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, provided commentary on how the research is applicable to practitioners in the field. To read the paper abstracts, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/researchers/GWSNHAsabstracts.pdf>. During a four-hour afternoon meeting, a gathering of 27 academics and practitioners discussed advances in heritage area research in the past two years and put together a new “To-do” list of research methods and tools to better understand the process and outcomes of

heritage areas. Workshop reports and information on the first two research meetings are available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/REP/research.htm>. The proceedings of this recent research meeting will be posted soon.

**-Preserve and Play:** Preserving America's recreational heritage, from stadiums to bowling alleys to amusement parks and community pools, will be the focus of a 3-day conference May 5-7 in Chicago. *Preserve and Play* will explore how these places can be kept in use or rehabilitated to continue to provide opportunities for recreation and economic development while fostering a sense of history and pride of place. The conference is sponsored by the National Park Service, Association for Preservation Technology, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and the National Council for Preservation Education. More information is online at <http://www.preserveandplay.org>.

## ● Publications

-The National Park Service Conservation Study Institute recently posted the Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor’s sustainability study report, entitled *Reflecting on the Past, Looking to the Future: A Technical Assistance Report to the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission* on its website at <http://www.nps.gov/mabi/csi/new/blackstone.htm>. The study was initiated by the Corridor’s Federal Commission, which desired an external evaluation of the Corridor’s accomplishments, NPS leveraging, current management structure, and options for the future. The authority of the Commission and NPS funding is currently legislated to expire in 2006. For more information on the Commission



and the sustainability study, visit <http://www.nps.gov/blac/who/comission.htm>.

- **News from the Washington Office**

-Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list by sending an email to your editor.

- **For more information on heritage areas, visit our [website](#).**

-Reach the editor at [suzanne\\_copping@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov)

-Past issues available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/rep/bb.htm>

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